FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 SEPTEMBER 1985

Syrian-Jordanian Talks in Jeddah

The dialogue between Syrian and Jordanian delegations held in Jeddah was positive and the two sides agreed on a number of steps to create a propitious atmosphere for developing bilateral relations, Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah announced in a statement broadcast by Riyadh radio following the second and final session of the talks. He said this will provide an opportunity for Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement and cooperation based on Arab summit commitments, especially concerning the Palestinian issue, adding that the two sides decided to hold further talks in Saudi Arabia in the second half of October.

While the Jordanian press has commented on the talks, monitored Syrian media have thus far reported them without comment. In Iran, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Tehran radio that Syria only agreed to meet with the Jordanians on condition that the latter give up their "compromising positions," and he contended that the Syrians gave a "negative" reply to an "important part" of the requests made by the Arab League reconciliation committee. Velayati's comments followed Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's talks with the Iranian president, prime minister, and Majlis speaker, as reported by Tehran radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes scored "accurate and effective" hits on a "large" maritime target near Iranian shores 17 September, according to a military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio. Monitored Iranian media have not been observed to mention the attack. Meanwhile, in a decree broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni authorized the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commander to equip the IRGC with "powerful" ground, air, and marine forces "as soon as possible" to cooperate with the armed forces in guarding the country's borders.

Iranian forces captured an Iraqi base near Sar Dasht 16 September, according to a military communique reported by IRNA.

In another development, IRNA disclosed that the Iranian Navy freed a Kuwaiti cargo ship seized 4 September after unloading some of its cargo that was destined for Iraq.

Lebanon

Fighting between the Islamic Unification Movement and the Arab Democratic Party continued in Tripoli 18 September, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, adding that 130 people were killed or wounded in the city between 15-17 September. Noting that shelling also continued in the Beirut area, the radio broadcast a Lebanese Army command statement condemning the bombardment of the Defense Ministry and residential areas in east Beirut by artillery emplacements on the Mountain, which is controlled by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP). Meanwhile, the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio carried a statement announcing the closure of 7 PSP offices in Beirut in accordance with PSP leader Walid Junblatt's plan to reduce military activity in the capital. On the Christian side, Elie Hubayqah was unanimously reelected as chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, according to a committee statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The statement was critical of a planned 18 September meeting between former Presidents Sulayman Franjiyah, Charles Hilu, and Camille Sham'un, asserting that it will not lead to progress in resolving the Lebanese crisis. The Lebanese Forces welcome the convening of a comprehensive and representative Christian conference prior to holding an impartial national conference attended by both Christians and Muslims, the statement added.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stressed in a Jerusalem radio interview that he intends to keep the agreement whereby Yitzhaq Shamir will replace him as prime minister next year, but he added that the agreement could be terminated if it is violated by "somebody else." Peres warned that any intentional attempt to paralyze the government for partisan reasons will be a violation of the agreement, which commits the coalition to taking action to promote the peace process. On relations with the Soviet Union, the prime minister noted that contacts are continuing, asserting that Israel's interest in the USSR, and especially in Soviet Jews, is more important than ever before.

On the dispute with Egypt over Tabah, Peres said the solution lies in a combination of conciliation and arbitration, starting with conciliation and moving on to arbitration. Jerusalem radio reported that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' message to Shamir on the subject is regarded by the latter as an attempt to pressure him to change his position.

Egypt

The PLO cannot be excluded from any peace negotiations because it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, President Husni Mubarak emphasized in remarks reported by MENA following talks in Cairo with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. At a news conference reported by the agency, Thatcher said it is "absolutely vital" to draw up a list of names for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will be "welcomed" by the United States and King Husayn. Thatcher said those names should not include people who have been "extremely prominent" in the PLO, and added that it is "possible" that the delegation will include some PLO members who reject terrorism. It is important that neither the United States nor the United Kingdom accept terrorism as a way of expediting diplomatic matters, Thatcher said.

Afghanistan

The Afghan Foreign Ministry summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul to denounce a 16 September "aggression" by Pakistani forces south of Khowst, Kabul radio reported, adding that 15 Pakistani "militia" were killed following a clash with DRA border forces. Pakistani media have not been observed to mention such a border clash.

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Kabul Reports 15 Pakistanis Killed in Border Clash
LD171728 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned at 1600 today to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The following statements were made to him by the director of the first political Section:

An aggression of the militia military force of Pakistan took place in Pata Kesar, located 16 km south of Khost, on 16 September 1985. As a result of a clash with the DRA border force, 15 Pakistani militia were killed.

The DRA government seriously denounces this undeniable aggression of the Pakistani military force, and in this regard strongly protests to the military Government of Pakistan.

Moreover, it is pointed out that the military authorities of Pakistan should immediately stop such armed aggression and interference against the DRA which has endangered security along the borders, otherwise the responsibility for its heavy and dangerous consequences will rest on the military authorities of Pakistan.

Thousands Demonstrate in Streets, at U.S. Embassy
LD171927 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text][Announcer] This morning, thousands of workers of Kabul City held a demonstration march in Kabul City on the occasion of the successful conclusion of the high border assembly, and they expressed resolute support for the implementation of the resolution and decisions of this glorious assembly.

[Begin recording of unidentified reporter, with sounds of marchers chanting slogans] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan, you hear our voice from the Street of Peace. At this moment, thousands of Kabul City workers are marching in honor of the successful conclusion of the high assembly of tribes. They express resolute support for the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of this assembly.

Dear listeners, those who are taking part in this march, carrying government flags, party banners, and thousands of placards containing revolutionary slogans, are now walking in a street located in front of the party's Central Committee and the street in front of the headquarters of the DRA Revolutionary Council and heading toward the Street of Peace.

Dear listeners, you are hearing the slogans and the patriotic feelings of the esteemed citizens of Kabul City who are expressing resolute support for the resolution and decisions of the high tribal assembly. [sound of marchers shouting "death"]

Dear listeners, the participants in this magnificent march are heading toward the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, that is to say, toward the nest of espionage; and after a short while they will reach the road in front of the embassy.

Dear listeners, at this moment the marchers have arrived in the street in front of the U.S. Embassy, this nest of espionage, and they have stopped here. You can hear their anger, repulsion, and objection at the shameless intervention of U.S. imperialism. With high patriotic feelings, they express their anger and hatred against imperialism and regional reaction. [background sound of a person chanting:"Long live the revolution of Afghanistan!;" "Death to imperialism!;' "Death to regional reaction!"]

The marchers again expressed their strong objection against U.S. imperialism, which, by continuing the arms race and assistance to the terrorist and murderer bands, has endangered world peace and has imposed an undeclared war on the workers of revolutionary Afghanistan. They asked the bosses of the White House to end as soon as possible their treacherous intervention and aggression in the internal affairs of revolutionary Afghanistan.

While chanting revolutionary slogans, the marchers expressed resolute support for the resolutions and decisions of the high tribal assembly and displayed readiness and devotion for their implementation.[End recording]

[Announcer] This magnificent march, which began at 1100, ended around 1200.

Rebels, Ammunition Captured in Helmand Province
LD161849 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 85

[Text] During recent operations in Now Zad District, Helmand Province, by the vigilant security forces, a number of counter-revolutionary elements, these merciless criminals, were crushed and another 18 were captured. Some 33 light weapons, 3 ZK-1, 1 DShK, 1 recoilless gun, 2 mortars, 19 ground-to-ground missiles, and more than 5,000 rounds for DShK'S and 10,000 rounds of ammunition for light weapons were seized from them.

According to another report by a BAKHTAR correspondent, after purging this area of the filthy existence of rebels, 521 inhabitants of the area, correctly realizing the historical reality of the revolution and recognizing its human and good aims, joined the ranks of the armed forces.

BBC: Rebels Kill Officers in Helicopter Attack
BK180207 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 18 Sep 85

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Antigovernment guerrillas in Afghanistan say they have shot down a helicopter carrying a high-ranking Soviet and Afghan Army delegation. The delegation had flown from Kabul to Paktia Province where Soviet and Afghan troops have been involved in heavy fighting with rebel forces. Alex Brodie in Islamabad has been monitoring events:

[Begin recording] Guerrilla sources say there were eight people on board the MI-24 Hind helicopter which was shot down by a

heavy machine gun near the mountain guerrilla stronghold of Ashaveh. They say all eight died, burned beyond recognition. But later the same day, Monday, an Afghan army defector, they say, told them that the helicopter contained a delegation of three men from the capital, Kabul, who had been visiting a temporary garrison in the mountains south of the garrison town of Khowst. Guerrilla sources say the defector said that the delegation comprised an Afghan artillery brigadier, (Brigadier Ghulam Rasul), and Afghan Army major general Major General Hamidullah, and a Soviet officer whose name he did not know but who, he said, seemed important as he was shown great respect. Also on board were said to be two Soviet soldiers and three Soviet crew.

For over a month, there has been heavy fighting in this corner of Afghanistan which juts out into Pakistan. It began with a government offensive to relieve the siege of Khowst which was then pressed south toward the border into the mountains, the targets being two main guerrilla bases of (Bari) which was captured and then, according to guerrillas, retaken 4 days later and Lejar where the fighting is now concentrated. Guerrillas say a 5 to 6 km front has been formed by government forces to try to spread the guerrillas thinly and so break through to Lejar. The guerrillas claim to be holding their ground. Beyond, and the closest to the border, is the main base of Zhawar which has been bombed repeatedly but which is largely underground. [end recording]

Ershad Says 'Indoor Politics' To Resume 1 Oct

BK171511 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Excerpts] President Ershad said that indoor politics will resume in the country on 1 Cotober. He said this at a news conference in Banga Bhavan this afternoon after his return to the country from the Islamic Peace Committee meeting in Jeddah and a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates. He said that after the summit of the South Asian Regional Cooperation in Dhaka next December, a definite decision will be made to hold national elections.

The president has stressed the need to establish a stable and democratic government with the objective of building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh for future generations. He said that without political stability, the way to national progress is blocked and, thus, political activities should be resumed for the reestablishment of democracy in the country.

He told a questioner that good relations between Bangladesh and India will be further increased. He hoped that very soon some of the problems between them will be solved.

Opposition Critical

HK180940 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 18 Sep 85

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 18 (Afp) — Opposition leaders have criticised President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's offer to restore "limited indoor political activities" in Bangladesh as a means of delaying democratic transition.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the opposition 15-Party Alliance and chief of the Bangladesh Awami League said today: "The government's offer to allow indoor politics is nothing but a ploy to restrict opposition politics."

President Ershad announced yesterday that he would allow "limited indoor political activities" banned under strict martial law regulations since last March.

He said the ban would be lifted on October 1 to to be followed by national polls in March or April of next year.

Reacting to President Ershad's offer, Sheikh Hasina said that "indoor politics" was a "new term coined by martial law authorities to mislead public opinion."

"It means no politics, because political activities cannot be confined within four walls," she added.

Meanwhile, Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the opposition Seven Party Alliance and chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party has also demanded an end to restrictions on political activities.

She called for more political freedom in the country when addressing party workers here last night.

President Ershad, who assumed power in a bloodless coup in March 1982, has postponed national polls three times in the face of the opposition threats of a boycott.

Last March, he tightened martial law by banning all political activities and held a controversial referendum that gave him a "massive mandate" to rule until national polls were held.

Measures To Protect Fish Resources Pondered

HK180506 Hong Kong AFP in English 0407 GMT 18 Sep 85

[By Roushan Zaman]

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 18 (AFP) — Bangladesh is contemplating stern measures to protect the country's fish resources in the Bay of Bengal against fish piracy.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sirajul Hossain Khan told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the government was concerned about the "large-scale abuse and plunder of our fish resources by foreign trawlers."

The pirates made off with catches worth about 100 million dollars each year, he said.

The minister did not name the foreign countries involved, but his statement came after recent press reports that Thai fishing trawlers have been taking huge catches and then making off to Thailand, forcibly taking their Bangladeshi crews with them, instead of bringing the fish into Bangladesh ports.

Thailand is the only country engaged in joint-venture fishing in Bangladesh waters.

The minister did not say what specific measures were planned to stop the illegal fishing, but sources here said that Bangladesh authorities were planning to review existing joint-venture fishing agreements with foreign companies.

Mr. Khan said that patrols would be increased and checkposts set up to monitor activities of foreign as well as Bangladeshi trawlers.

"But what is important is that we want to ensure strict application of the laws governing bay fishing and see that previous decisions in this regard are implemented." Mr. Khan said.

"We want to stop fish piracy in our economic zone in the Bay", Mr. Siraj [as received] said, adding that many foreign trawlers "are engaged in indiscriminate catching, polluting and destroying our fish beds."

Officials said that a high-level committee set up in January to review the entire question of off-shore fishing had found that activities of trawlers imported under a pay as you earn scheme (PAYE) and in joint ventures with Thailand were detrimental to the country's interest.

They alleged that many of these trawlers were taking their catches straight back to Thai ports, instead of bringing them into Bangladeshi ports as required under the joint venture regulations.

Under the PAYE scheme, a Bangladeshi company can import a foreign trawler, paying for it with fish catches over a stipulated period, after which the vessel should be handed over to the local company.

Bangladesh officials have alleged that most of the trawlers remained in Thai ownership however, with the catches never being landed in Bangladesh.

Officials have also complained that joint venture conditions that at least 51 per cent ownership should be handed over to Bangladeshi companies have not been followed.

The government set a time limit for the handover last month, which led to the exodus of Thai trawlers.

The fishing dispute also took a new turn last month, when Bangladesh authorities detained a Thai fishing vessel, the *Chainavee Enterprise*, along with its captain and crew on charges of carrying smuggled goods from thailand.

Press reports here said the trawler was allegedly carrying goods such as electronic products and cigarettes worth a total of about 10 million taka (384,000 dollars).

The owners of the vessel retaliated by recalling seven other trawlers which escaped to Thailand with huge catches, taking 140 Bangladeshi crew members hostage.

At least 47 other Thai trawlers followed suit and escaped, either leaving their Bangladeshi crew off at ports or throwing them overboard.

"The government has received the news of escape of these trawlers and investigations are underway to take necessary legal action against the companies involved," an official said.

Off-shore fishing in Bangladesh is governed by the Marine Fisheries Ordinance of 1983, and all trawlers now operating in Bangladesh waters have been imported.

A total of 114 trawlers had been imported into Bangladesh under the ordinance by the end of last year, according to official figures.

About 80 of them were imported under the PAYE or joint venture schemes, while most of the others were owned outright by Bangladesh individuals or companies, officials said.

The government decided in January that no new trawlers would be imported until the reserves of various fish species in the bay were ascertained.

Gandhi, Parliamentary Secretary Meet U.S. Officials

BK171609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] The 2-member U.S. official delegation now in India had a meeting with the prime minister in New Delhi this morning. They were with him for about half an hour. They also met the parliamentary secretary to the prime minister, Mr Arun Singh.

The delegation comprised Mr Michael Armacost, under secretary of state for political affairs; and Mr Donald Fortier, senior director for political and military affairs, National Security Council.

Gandhi Meets Sri Lankan Tamil Leaders

BK180320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Sep 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, held discussions with the 9-member Eelam National Liberation Front [ENLF] delegation in New Delhi last evening to give a new force to India's efforts for finding a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. During the 90-minute meeting, the prime minister had free and frank discussions with the militant leaders. The delegation apprised Mr Gandhi of the latest developments in the island. According to PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, they also conveyed their grave misgivings about the ways of security forces in Sri Lanka in attacking Tamils in northern and eastern provinces. The Tamil militant leaders are reported to have expressed their apprehension about the extension of the truce accord without any guarantees from the island government for its sincere implementation.

The ENLF delegation earlier had discussions with the foreign secretary, Romesh Bhandari. A spokesman of the ENLF said that the prime minister gave a sympathetic hearing to their views on the entire gamut of the problem and the recent events which led to the failure of the second phase of the talks at Thimpu. The spokesman said the discussions will continue.

Tamils Seek Preconditions to Cease-fire

BK170325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Leaders of the Eelam National Liberation Front [ENLF] arrived in New Delhi last night. They will have talks with the prime minister on the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. This is in response to Mr Rajiv Gandhi's invitation to them as part of his continuing efforts to find a solution to the ethnic issue. The ENLF leaders are accompanied by their advisers who participated in the Thimpu talks.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the front told newsmen in Madras yesterday, that the front is prepared to accept a cease-fire accord on a new set of preconditions. He further said the extension of the present truce agreement which expires tomorrow is not acceptable to them. As reported earlier, the Sri Lankan Government had unilaterally extended indefinitely the 3-month-old cease-fire with Tamil militants.

WPC To Support Nonaligned, Indian Efforts

BK171447 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] The World Peace Council is to work for mobilization of global public opinion in support of the efforts of India and the Nonaligned Movement for disarmament and a new international economicorder. The president of the council, Mr Ramesh Chandra, said this is New Delhi today. He told newsmen that 11-member delegation of the council which met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday held discussions with him on the recent international and regional developments.

PAKISTAN

Karachi: Mujahidin Kill 20 Soldiers Near Kabul

BK180834 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 18 Sep 85

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, mujahidin have foiled an attack of Soviet-Karmal forces on their positions in (?Nangarhar) Province. Another report says mujahidin attacked a military convoy near Kabul killing at least 20 Soviet-Karmal soldiers, damaging four tanks and seizing an oil tanker.

SRI LANKA

Sources Say Government To Refuse Foreign Observers

HK170736 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 17 Sep 85

[By Neville de Silva]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Sept 17 (AFP) — Sir Lanka will refuse foreign observers to monitor a ceasefire with militant Tamil separatists, highly reliable sources said today.

The Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), an umbrella group of four militant Tamil groups, has reportedly said in Madras, southern India that its leaders would agree to a fresh ceasefire if it was monitored by the Red Cross.

The ENLF statement preceded talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and senior officials in New Delhi starting today.

The Sri Lanka Government yesterday unilaterally extended a three month ceasefire between its forces and five major militant groups due to end tomorrow under a deadline set by some militants.

The sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Colombo maintained the ethnic issue was an internal problem and that no foreign observers would be permitted to mmnitor the ceasefire.

They added that the Indian Government was also against the use of foreign observers as it agreed that the island's ethnic crisis was an internal Sri Lankan issue.

The sources said that New Delhi was expected to tell the militant leaders that it would not back the call for foreign observers to be placed in the troubled north and east to ensure that ceasefire violations do not occur.

Tamil separatists have also suggested the posting of an international peace keeping force to check on actions by the Sri Lankan security forces.

Colombo in turn has accused some militant groups of violating the ceasefire and driving away non-Tamil residents from areas in the north and east which separatists claim as their traditional homelands.

Security Forces Kill 20 'Terrorists,' Capture 85

BK171332 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Twenty separatist terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire with security forces during a search operation in Nilaveli, Trincomalee, yesterday. Security sources told LANKAPUWATH that they met with heavy resistance from the terrorists, who used small arms and grenades. In the ensuing exchange of fire, 20 terrorists were killed and 85 taken in for questioning. Wilson Perera, a cook attached to the Vellaveli police station in the Batticaloa district, was shot dead by the terrorists. His body was found tied to a lamp post.

Two terrorists were shot dead by the special task force after a group of [words indistinct] by the commandos from a school building at the Chenkaladi junction. The special task force also recovered two hand grenades and a VHS (?head service) antenna.

In Jaffna, terrorists shot dead Yogendran [words indistinct]. The troops searched the area and arrested one person who carried sealed capsule of cyanide.

Military Sweep, Talks Continue

HK180826 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 18 Sep 85

[Text] Colombo, Sept 18 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops were today pressing on into the Tamil-dominated northeast in efforts to dislodge entrenched guerrillas, well-informed sources said, as talks continued in India to try to extend a ceasefire.

Security forces continued their sweep in the northeast hitting at Tamil separatist bases, after operations launched Saturday in which up to 35 militants were killed and a quantity of weapons recovered near the port of Trincomalee, the sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

(In New Delhi, Tamil militant leaders today held fresh talks with Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh BHANDARI on a working paper prepared by Sri Lanka and India on devolution of power for Tamil-speaking areas in Sri Lanka.

(Indian officials tried again to persuade the Tamils to accept an extension of a three-month-old ceasefire and resume talks on the basis of the working paper, official sources said. The representatives, from four groups, reportedly rejected the idea yesterday, but talks were to continue later today. [no closing parenthesis as received]

The Tamil leaders, representing the Eelam National Liberation front (ENLF) which groups four militant organisations yesterday had two rounds of talks with Mr. Bhandari and also met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Colombo has already unilaterally extended the ceasefire, which was due to expire today. But reports here said that the ENLF told Indian officials in New Delhi yesterday that it would only accept an extension if it was monitored by international observers.

Highly-placed sources here told AFP that the government would not allow this, apparently because it regarded the Tamil issue as an internal affair. Militants among Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils are pressing for a separate state in the north and northeast.

Informed sources said that the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), one of the six Tamil groups which attended peace talks with Colombo representatives in Thimpu earlier this year, might suggest that a multi-racial local monitoring team be appointed.

The People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT), the only major militant group outside the ENLF umbrella, would likely go along with the idea, the sources said.

Division appeared to have emerged between the TULF and PLOT on one side and the ENLF on the other, with the former groups ready to accept the proposals contained in the working paper as a basis for negotiations, sources said.

Tamil sources in New Delhi and reports reaching here said that the ENLF delegates told Mr. Gandhi the working paper could hardly be the basis for a resumption of peace talks, which bogged down in Thimpu, because it conceded none of the Tamils' demands.

These included recognition of the Tamils of Sri Lanka as a distrinct nationality, right of self-determination, suffrage for all Tamils who wanted them [as received] and recognition of Tamil areas in the north and east as one entity.

But sources here were confident that India would persuade the ENLF to accept a fresh ceasefire and agree to new talks likely to be held in New Delhi.

U.S. Restrictions on UN Staff, Diplomats Protested

LD161731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 85

[Text] Following the unlawful decision by the United States to limit trips by diplomats of several countries and UN staff in New York, our country's foreign minister sent a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

The message reads: The decision by the U.S. State Department to limit trips by diplomats from a number of countries, including secretaries and employees of the UN who are nationals of those countries, is among the prejudiced actions of the U.S. Government and is condemned by the government and Muslim nation of Iran.

While endorsing your excellency's reaction toward such regulations imposed by the U.S. Government against the citizens of certain countries, I hope that under your leadership the UN will be able to take effective steps to end such inhuman acts.

Syrian Vice President Arrives on Brief Visit

LD170630 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — The Syrian vice-president 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived here Tuesday carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad for his Iranian counterpart [as received] President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Upon his arrival at Tehran's international Mehrabad Airport where he was greeted by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Khaddam described existing ties between Iran and Syria as "excellent".

The Syrian vice-president will leave Tehran for Damascus at 14:00 (10:30 GMT) Tuesday.

Khaddam paid a visit to Libya last Sunday and handed a message from President al-Asad to the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The objective of Khaddam's visit to Tripoli was to inform the Libyan officials of the outcome of efforts of the committee to solve disputes among Syria, Jordan and Iraq.

Talks With Khamene'i

LD171302 Tehran domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was received by President Khamene'i on his arrival in Tehran and delivered a special written message from Mr Hafiz al-Asad to Mr Khamene'i. Having handed over the message, Mr Khaddam spoke about the objective of his visit. He said that the purpose of the trip is to report on the latest regional developments to our country's president. He added: Mr Hafiz al-Asad has announced that we respect and value the role of the three countries — Iran, Libya and Syria — to counter U.S. imperialism and the Zionist regime. He added: Syria hopes that meetings and expansion of cooperation between the progressive Islamic countries in countering reactionary movements in the region will continue.

Having expressed his gratitude for the views expressed by Mr Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian president, Mr Khamene'i said: Syria's credibility and political prestige are backed by that country's clear-cut stands on the Zionist regime. Today, the whole world considers Syria the only country in the forefront of the steadfast front against Israel.

The president then emphasized the need for following up the decisions adopted during his visit last year to Syria as well as the visit by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the visits made by the three countries' foreign ministers. He added: We maintain our clear-cut stands in our approach to the Palestine issue and the need for earnest struggle against the Zionist regime. We attach great value to our friendship with Syria.

Meeting With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD171726 TEHRAN Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice president, met with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis Speaker this afternoon. In this meeting, Khaddam presented a report about the recent changes and developments in the region concerning Lebanon, Palestine, and the recent Casablanca conference, saying: The conference of the Arab heads of state in Casablanca, whose purpose was to bring Egypt back to the Arab community, met with defeat. Their second decision was to ratify the agreement between King Husayn and 'Arafat, and that too met with failure. Of course, concerning the issue of Lebanon we will witness peace in the region only when the United States and other hegemonistic countries leave the region.

Then in a speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, thanking Khaddam, said: Since we are familiar with you and Syrian policies, we have no doubt that your policies in the steadfastness front will be unchangeable. We hope that one day all the fundamental problems of the Arab and Islamic world will be solved. Under those conditions, too, we will never stop any kind of cooperation and unity with the Islamic world. Of course, anyone who has any political understanding will know that the United States and the regional reactionaries will try to impose a moderate stance upon Syria; because they know what negative effects a moderate stance will have upon the morale and the steadfastness of revolutionary people.

Meeting With Musavi

LD171831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] The Syrian vice president, 'Abd al-halim Khaddam, this afternoon met with the prime minister, Mir Hoseyn Musavi. In the course of this meeting, Khaddam briefed our country's prime minister on the latest developments of the region and the recent steps taken by the Arab Summit mediation committee. He said: We believe that the United States will increase its pressure in the region so as to implement the Camp David plans, but this issue

would have some consequences and reflections and would intensify the skirmishes.

Musavi, the prime minister, while referring to the importance of these meetings and exchanges of views, said: The present situation in Israel is the worst since its establishment. He added: We believe that we would be victorious, if we were to remain steadfast; and this is the fate of all countries like us which should stand for their rights and now, more than any other time before, one can be certain of the positive outcome of this action.

The prime minister went on: We view Syria as the country which is engaged in the most direct confrontation against Israel; and Iran and Syria, through strengthening of their relations, play an important role in Middle East events and have become a tangible political reality in the world, and their identity of views isgradually demonstrating very good results concerning the most important issues of the Middle East and the world.

While analysing our country's relations with our neighbors, Musavi said: We are interested in expanding relations with our neighbors and our neighboring countries can strengthen their relations with us by maintaining respect for our revolutionary principles.

Visit Ends

LD171946 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — Syrian vice president 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam concluded his one-day visit to Tehran later Tuesday afternoon.

He was carrying a message from Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad to the Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Foreign Minister Comments

LD172158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Syrian Vice President Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left Tehran this afternoon. At the end of his visit, he was seen off at Mehrabad Airport by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Velayati.

Before leaving Tehran, in an interview with one of our colleagues Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said: There have always been continuous contacts between the officials of the two countries in order to exchange views on different issues of interest to both countries. During my visit to Tehran, I submitted the message of Mr Hafiz al-Asad to Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i; we had discussions with him and other officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the current developments of the region. In these meetings the views and issues discussed have been completely in harmony and coordinated.

Our colleague has also had an interview with Mr Velayati, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice president, arrived in Tehran this morning carrying a message from Mr Hafiz al-Asad for the Islamic president of Iran. He also had meetings with the esteemed speaker of the Majlis and the esteemed prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This visit follows the dispatch of a delegation by the conference of the heads of Arab states to Damascus. This 3-member delegation had,in fact, gone on that trip in order to mediate between Syria, on the one hand, and Jordan and Iraq, on the other. To us, the position of the fraternal country of Syria toward the reactionaries, the compromisers, and the lackeys of imperialism in the region has been and is quite clear. Our Syrian brothers have given a negative reply to an important part of the requests of the delegation. They have accepted a meeting between the prime ministers of Jordan and Syria, provided that Jordan would give up its compromising positions. So far as we are informed about the policies of Syria and other countries of the region, it is very unlikely that as the result of such efforts Syria would give up her steadfastness and struggle against Israel. Those who have shown an attitude of surrender and compromise towards Israel in recent years should join the ranks of the strugglers. In any case, in view of the close relations between Iran and Syria, at such sensitive times it is quite natural and an expected fact that there should be consultations and exchanges of views between us and Syria. A few days ago Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam visited Libya. Now he has visited the Islamic Republic, and later he will also go to Democratic Yemen. This move shows which countries it will have consultations with as its close friends if Syria is faced with a political move in the region or if it wishes to engage in a political initiative,

During this visit, Mr Khaddam had relatively detailed discussions with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and there were exchanges of views between us about the positions of the progressive countries in the region.[end recording]

PRC Foreign Ministry Experts Meet with Velayati

LD172027 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — Members of the Research Institute of the Chinese Foreign Ministry met with Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here Tuesday.

Describing Iran's foreign policy dictum independent of either the two blocs and comparing it to the independent foreign policy pursued by China, Velayati termed this similarity as being a common background for building future relations between Iran and China.

The head of the Chinese institute called for the execution of economic protocols signed earlier by the two countries.

Khomeyni Issues Decree on Strengthening IRGC Forces

LD171131 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Mr Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], in a letter asked Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief, to communicate his orders regarding the formation and strengthening of the combat air, ground, and

marine forces of the Corps, to the IRGC and other responsible officials. The Central News Unit reports that in a decree, Imam Khomeyni assigned Mohsen Reza'i to form and strengthen the ground, air, and marine forces of the Corps. The text of the decree issued by the commander in chief is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the IRGC of Iran, in view of the fact that according to Article 150 of the Constitution, the continuation of the Corps' role in guarding the revolution and its fruits has been emphasized and because performing this role would not be possible without the Corps' complete readiness with regard to its equipment; war formation; air, ground, and sea warfare techniques, you are hereby assigned to equip the IRGC with powerful ground, air, and marine forces as soon as possible so that when the occasion arises, in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with their cooperation, the Corps can guard the ground, air, and sea borders of the country.

26th of shahrivar 1364, corresponding to 1st moharram 1406

[signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

Paper Comments

GF180940 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Sep 85

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] Under the heading "The Future Tasks of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]", the newspaper *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI* writes today:

The Middle East is currently witnessing frenzied and intensive activity by the U.S. Administration, the generals' government in Tel Aviv, and the reactionary countries connected with the Camp David alliance aimed at achieving U.S. hegemony over the whole region and imposing surrender on its peoples.

For this reason, the Reagan administration has bolstered Israel's military capabilities to enable it to carry out its aggressions against revolutionary countries in implementation of the U.S.-ZIONIST strategic alliance. At the same time, the Reagan administration has put its special forces on alert to intervene in the Persian Gulf following Saddam's failure to affect Iran's oil exports and in view of indications of the imminent collapse of the regime.

Considering the seriousness of such a situation, the imam, the leader, has issued his orders to Brother Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the IRGC, to form IRGC ground, air, and naval forces. The imam, the leader, concentrates on the huge potential capabilities of the Iranian people to confront colonialist invasions. The people's army alone is capable of standing steadfast and inflicting the severest losses on the hostile forces.

These facts were made manifestly clear at the outbreak of the Islamic revolution, during which the masses toppled the biggest empire in the East, repulsed Saddam's aggression, and forced him to retreat deep inside Iraq.

On the same level, the Lebanese Muslim people have revealed the immense capabilities they possess and forced NATO and Zionist forces to withdraw from all Lebanese territories, thus demonstrating to the whole world that the U.S.-Zionist arm can be amputated by steadfastness.

The energies of the IRGC will burst forth in the near future when it marches to liberate Jerusalem and the entire Palestinian land after teaching Saddam a hard lesson in retribution for the shedding of innocent blood which he has perpetrated.

Commerce Official Explains Rationing Programs

LD141752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Sep 85

[Excerpt] In a press and radio-television interview today, the Ministry of Commerce's deputy for the provision of essential commodities, explained the programs which are being implemented and also the problems and difficulties of the question of the distribution of rice, chicken, eggs, and laundry detergent.

In connection with the distribution of rice in the current year, he stated the policy of the government and of the Ministry of Commerce is to place imported rice at the disposal of consumers by means of coupons, as it has done in the past few years, and to allow the unrestricted distribution of domestically produced rice.

Due to the increase in domestically produced rice, the Ministry of Commerce has reduced the level of the country's imported rice by 200,000 tons in order to protect farmers. Because the government has decided to buy all the rice for the year 1364 [21 March 1985 to 21 March 1986], whenever the price of domestically produced rice increases uncontrollably, the government will make rice available even if this may disturb the current schedule of rice distribution. In connection with the distribution of Tehran's share of rice, he stated: In view of the elimination of the problems and difficulties arising from the transportation and off-loading of rice from the distribution network, the distribution of rice is continuing, and the coupon details for Tehran will be announced at the beginning of next week.

In connection with the distribution of cooking oil, the Ministry of Commerce's deputy for the provision of essential commodities, stated: During the current year, the government has been able, together with the efforts of those involved in the production of cooking oil, to systematically issue monthly coupons worth 450g for every person. In addition, from the start of the current year one series of 900g per person coupons has been distributed and by the end of the current year, too, at least another series of extraration coupons will be issued.

In connection with poultry and eggs, while refuting the rumor that the restrictions on the distribution of poultry and eggs have been lifted, he referred to the point that presently, the chicken and egg production units are working at 60 percent capacity, and stated: Ministry of Agriculture employees have embarked on two new projects that will make parts for abandoned production units in the poultry and egg industry operational. This means that in the course of the next few months, there will be an increase in the production of poultry and eggs.

In connection with shortages in laundry detergent, the Ministry of Commerce's deputy for the provision of essential commodities, referring to the shortages of this commodity stated: In view of the recent surplus in supply, about 10 percent to 20 percent of the raw material for laundry detergent production plants was reduced and allocated to other plants. But, in view of the shortage which is presently current in the market, the raw material of the plants have been made equal to last year's level, and these plants have been duty-bound to increase their production to the level that was current during the year before last, and the forecast is that the shortage of laundry detergent will be completely eliminated. In this respect, the rumor that the distribution of laundry detergent will be restricted is being denied.

Navy Releases Detained Kuwaiti Cargo Ship

LD171851 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — Iran's Navy set free the Kuwaiti cargo ship *Al-Wattyah* Tuesday after unloading some of its cargo that was destined for Iraq, military officials said.

The Navy seized the 24,000-ton-ship on 4th September and led it to an Iranian port for inspection. Iran has warned that it would confiscate the military cargo of any ship destined for Iraq.

Military officials said the ship set sail from an Iran port at 17:00 hours (13:30 GMT) local time Tuesday. They said parts of the cargo, including war-related machinery and spare parts, that were loaded in the United States and were destined for Iraq have been confiscated.

The Japanese captain of the ship, Yuo-Akutagawa, said the Iranian authorities had a fine behaviour with the ship's crew. The *Al-Wattyah* had 250 containers, of 100-kg, each when it was seized at the Strait of Hormuz on September 4th.

Inspection of Ships in Persian Gulf to Continue

LD161727 TEHRAN IRNA in English 1632 GMT 16 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran Sept. 16 IRNA — Iran said Monday that it will continue its inspection of ships suspicious of carrying cargo to Iraq through the Persian Gulf in a bid to check "hostile measures" against the Islamic Revolution and aids to the Baghdad regime.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters [WIH] also said that the Islamic Republic will not allow the Baghdad government to receive its favored equipment and facilities through the Persian Gulf.

On Kuwait's recent appeal to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to take action against Iran's seizure of Kuwaiti ships, the WIH spokesman said Iran will have to continue this policy because of Kuwait's logistic and material aids to the Baghdad regime. He said all Iraqi-destined military hardware and other goods are shipped through Kuwaiti ports and Kuwait is practically showing unwillingness to halt its assistance to the war-mongering regime in Baghdad.

This Kuwaiti policy, the spokesman said, has jeopardized the stability and security in the Persian Gulf region and through collaborating with Iraq in its war crimes and adventurism, has enhanced the tension in this waterway.

He said it was not possible to distinguish between ships carrying goods to Kuwait and Iraqi-destined ships.

Commentary Justifies Seizure of Ships' Cargos

LD172143 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Sep 85

[from "The World in Revolution" program]

[Excerpts] Next week, the war imposed by Iraq upon the Islamic Republic will start its 6th year. A quick review of the main phases of the war shows that whenever the Baghdad regime has tried to impose a new position or some constraints upon the Islamic Republic of Iran it has failed. The current developments in the Persian Gulf and the harassing measures of the Iraqis in this sensitive and strategic region shows that Saddam's regime does not refrain from any action which might lead to the smallest victory for it. On the other hand, these actions take place when the fighting capability of the Iraqi forces in all the warfronts is in decline.

Iraqi adventurism in the Persian Gulf is taking place as, despite the warnings of the Iranian Government, certain ships flying the insignia and flag of some Persian Gulf littoral states have long been carrying goods whose final destination is Baghdad. These cargos include certain goods which are useful in increasing the military capabilities of the Iraqi regime and which are being transported to Iraq through the intermediation of some Arab states of the Persian Gulf. The goods are then carried to Iraq by land. This is why, on the basis of the most elementary rights of a country at war which tries to prevent the delivery of goods which will assist the enemy's military capability, the Islamic Republic, while paying full attention to international principles and while respecting the right of free navigation, regards it as her right to prevent the movement of ships with special facilities at the disposal of Baghdad.

The Iranian Government has announced that this matter should not give rise to any particular worry, and ships which observe this condition — not to transport goods to Iraq which might increase its military capability — will be able to arrive at their destinations in complete security. However, it is due to these special conditions that we are forced to impose some limitations; as, in fact, in every war and military confrontation both sides try to prevent the delivery of goods to the other side which will assist the military capability of the enemy. In the pre-war years European countries, especially England, in order to make sure that military equipment and weapons would not be sent to Austria or the Ottoman Empire through the Mediterranean, inspected the cargos of ships sailing the Mediterranean. If those ships contained such cargos they would be confiscated. All European countries supported these measures and those naval confrontations. Referring to this historical precedent is not for the sake of justifying the actions of the European countries. It is only meant to demosntrate that the existence of a war situation in the Persian

Gulf — something which has been declared by the Iraqi Government itself — necessitates the confiscation of cargos destined for Iraq only through the Persian Gulf.

Despite the claims of some Arab officials of the Persian Gulf states, this is in no way piracy or extortion. The Iranian forces only stop those ships, and occasionally confiscate their cargos, that are suspected to be carrying those cargos for Iraq. These ships can take their cargos to Iraq through other routes; as each month millions of tons of goods are transported to Iraq through the port of al-'Aqabah in Jordan or other transit routes.

In any case, the decisive argument of the Islamic Republic concerning the seizure of commercial ships which are transporting goods destined for Iraq and denying them permission to enter the Persian Gulf is based on the desire to prevent the strengthening of Iraqi capabilities which will ultimately be used on the battlefronts. The Islamic Republic will continue this policy for as long as it sees fit, and the ending of this policy would depend upon the ending of support of some of the regimes of the region for the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors.

Tehran on Success Against Narcotics Smuggling

GF161756 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Sep 85

[Text] Brothers, during the past 3 years, border guards of the Islamic revolution committees have arrested hundreds of international smugglers and seized 120,000 kg of narcotics. Accordingly, they have dealt a crushing blow to international drug smuggling.

Members of the UN subcommittee for combating drugs — which convened last week with the participation of 40 countries — frankly expressed appreciation at the effective role of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Committee Guards in combating international drug smuggling.

Salek, deputy minister of interior for the revolution committees, told our correspondent that the Islamic Republic of Iran has allocated a huge budget to decisively combat smuggling, in addition to the fact that the Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committees have control over more than 6,000 km of Iranian border passages.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Base Taken; 22 Casualties

LD171708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] According to a report by the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces Joint Staff Command, at dawn yesterday a group of combatants of Islam during a limited offensive [tak] occupied an enemy base in the Alan region of Sar Dasht and destroyed part of their equipment, bunkers, and troops.

The forces of Islam continued their defensive battle along the entire frontline during the past 24 hours. As a result of firefights, 10 squad trenches and observation posts of the enemy were destroyed and 22 of their troops were either killed or wounded.

Communique No 2,230

LD171838 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 17 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants during a limited attack against an Iraqi base in Alan, in Sar Dasht region at dawn Monday, captured the base and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi troops and also seized several light and heavy weapons, rocket propelled gerenades and an amount of ammunition as booty, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Tuesday.

Announcing this in its communique number 2230 the command added that more than 15 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded, and one of their vehicles was destroyed in Chazabeh region in southern fronts which was the scene of sporadic exchange of fire.

Over seven Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and 10 bunkers and observation posts of the enemy were devastated by the Iranian fighters' artillery fire in central fronts, the communique said, adding that that Iraqi forces also suffered casualties and losses during artillery battle in northern fronts.

The Iranian combatants opened fire on four Iraqi motor-boats near Khorramshahr port in Khuzestan Province at 08:50 hours local time (05:20 GMT) Monday, forcing the boats to flee, the command said.

Iran's Gendarmerie Forces stationed on the banks of the Arvand River responded to the enemy artillery fire during the past 24 hours, halting Iraqi enemy engineering and combat operations, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers, and setting fire to some of their bunkers, the communique concluded.

Radio Iran Reports PRC Protest of Ship Interception

GF131648 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 13 Sep 85

[Text] According to news agency reports, following daily growing piracy by the Islamic regime in Persian Gulf waters, the PRC Government has issued a strong protest to the Islamic Republic concerning the confiscation and theft of the cargo on a Chinese ship which was leased to the Government of Kuwait. The report says that the spokesman of the PRC Government, while protesting this insulting act, said it contravened international laws and principles. He expressed his concern over such actions being repeated.

The official news agency of China reported that the ship intercepted by the Khomeyni regime carried 13,000 tons of corn for Iraq. On the basis of this report, the PRC Government has strongly rejected the claim of the Islamic regime that the ship was carrying arms for Iraq. The spokesman of the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs hoped that the Khomeyni regime would become wise and in future not endanger the security of international waters.

Clandestine On Army Arrests, Expulsions

GF151737 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 15 Sep 85

[Text] Now a news item on the arrests and expulsion of Iranian military personnel:

[Begin correspondent's recording] Over the past few days, more than 340 Members of the higher echelons of the armed forces have been expelled, arrested, or pensioned off. The purge of these officers and sergeants has taken place due to their opposition to the continuation of the war. In our correspondent's report, it was stated that 180 lower-ranking officers have been suspended due to their support of Zahirnezhad, the former chief of staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces.

According to a military source, the regime has recalled to service, some officers and sergeants who had earlier been removed from the military and has offered them high posts at various levels in the armed forces. According to reports, following the re-election of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i as president and as chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, differences between him and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khomeyni's deputy in this council, have intensified and clashes between the supporters of these two mullahs have been witnessed within the armed forces. It is said that soon Khamene'i will present a plan whereby the armed forces will come under the direct command of the Guards' Corps. [end recording]

Najat-e Iran Reports Clashes, Deaths in Tehran

GF151926 (Clandestine) Radio Najat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Sep 85

[Text] As a result of a gory clash between Komiteh [committee] officials and residents of Qal'eh Hasan Khan in the Old Karaj Road area, people were killed and wounded. According to a Radio Najat-e Iran correspondent, the residents of Qal'eh Hasan Khan, a small suburb in the Karaj area, were the victims of an onslaught by the demolition officials of the municipality last Wednesday. It may be recalled that prior to Khomeyni's revolution, this suburb had a population of about 10,000, but due to the arrival of Afghan refugees, and especially unemployed and homeless Iranians, over the past 6 years, the population of the suburb has increased to 120,000.

Our correspondent reports that officials of the municipality and the fire brigade have attacked this district with demolition bulldozers and have destroyed some of the houses over the heads of the residents. On Wednesday afternoon, 20 vehicles carrying armed komiteh members, 45 gendarmes, and 70 bulldozers and dump trucks supported by a task force unit of the Guards' Corps besieged the suburb of Qal'eh Hasan Khan and demolished about 140 houses over the course of 3 hours. As a result 2,000 women, children, workers, and villagers were left homeless in the wilderness.

According to our correspondent, the workers of the Karaj Road factories heard of the incident and bore down on the komiteh and demolition officials with steel girders, sticks, and maces. A violent clash ensued. For hours traffic in the Karaj area was halted. According to unofficial reports, 11 women and children were killed and 20 antiregime workers were seriously injured. It is interesting to note that the spokesman of the komiteh 14 [not further identified] told the correspondent of the government newspaper *ETTELA'AT* that this was an isolated incident.

Clandestine on Airline Technicians' Strike

GF151910 (Clandestine) Radio Najat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Sep 85

[Text] Some technicians of the Iranian national airlines have gone on strike. According to one of the correspondents of Radio Najat-e Iran in Tehran, as the Khomeyni regime is faced with resolving the issue of sporadic strikes in industrial complexes and large factories in our country, it transpired yesterday that 36 technicians of Iranair went on strike to protest unsafe flying conditions of passenger planes.

According to our correspondent, two Boeing 727's and two Boeing 747's belonging to Iranair stand dilapidated at the farthest corner of a runway at the Mehrabad Airport due to lack of technical facilities for flight.

Mill in Trouble After USSR Experts Depart

GF161932 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 16 Sep 85

[Text] The exodus of Soviet experts from Iran has plunged the Islamic Republic's regime into difficulties. Our correspondent reports from the foundry of the Esfahan steel mill:

[Begin recording] Furnace No. 1 of the Esfahan steel mill is about to close down. Due to the departure of Soviet experts from Iran and the inability of the Khomeyni regime to operate the Esfahan metallurgical complex, furnace No 1 of the Esfahan steel mill will soon grind to a halt and it is possible that the mill will close down. [Word indistinct] decay and [word indistinct] of the refuse of the large furnace of the mill and the absence of the Soviet experts are the reasons mentioned for the halt in the operations of this complex. [end recording]